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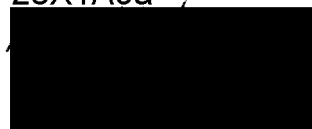
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ORR needs to strengthen its geographic research capabilities ^{for} on Africa commensurate with the increasing importance of the area. We principally need research files which will provide collated basic data in the fields of physical and human geography for that continent. For example, we require information on the changing distribution of population in Africa, and on the periodic and aperiodic movements of native peoples. We also require more and better data on the habits, institutions, and identifying features of native groups, and knowledge of such subjects as the relation of native settled areas to terrain, of super-imposed legal political boundaries to the old native boundaries, of the relationship of urbanized native groups to their rural homeland. Better information is also needed on internal and foreign commerce, transportation routes and systems, and area development projects. The initial aim of the proposed external research project will be to backstop research support of evasion and escape, unconventional warfare, and similar operational programs. The effort will be directed particularly at acquiring that knowledge peculiar to tropical areas which makes research support of ^{African} operations a different problem than it is in temperate ~~African~~ zones.

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Personnel limitations prevent ORR from internal commitments other than area familiarization, which has already been accomplished. It is thus proposed to contract with academic specialists, possibly in Europe, for the accomplishment of a file of data on the geographic aspects noted. Specific plans await the further refinement of priority tasks and final selection of the most appropriate contractee.

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